

Message Text

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43

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SNM-02 /013 W
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O 041822Z MAR 75
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO DEA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS IMMEDIATE
SECSTATE WASHDC 7369

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 2048

HQ FOR EOIL

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: SNAR CO
SUBJ: ZE-75-0014

1. AT 1100 HRS TODAY, GEN NICOLAS RIOS MESA, NO. 2 MAN IN DAS, TELEPHONED SAIC GONZALEZ AND ADVISED DAS HAD JUST SEIZED WHAT THEY CONSIDERED TO BE THE LARGEST COCAINE CLANDESTINE LABORATORY IN BOGOTA COLOMBIA. GENERAL RIOS REQUESTED BDO ASSISTANCE IN FOLLOW-UP INV AT LAB SITE AND FOLLOW UP OF INTERNATIONAL RAMIFICATIONS.
2. SAIC OCTAVIO GONZALEZ AND SA DAVID KNIGHT PROCEEDED TO CALLE 7 NR 21-08 IN BOGOTA. AT SCENE, SAIC MET WITH DR. TONY LOPEZ, WHO INVITED SAIC TO VIEW CLANDESTINE LABORATORY LOCATED IN WAREHOUSE.
3. LABORATORY WAS IN OPERATION AT TIME OF SEIZURE. AT SCENE, SAIC VIEWED COCA PASTE DRYING IN CLOTH, LARGE AMOUNTS OF CHEMICALS, GLASSWARE AND EQUIPMENT. LAB EXTREMELY LARGE AND EQUAL IN CAPACITY TO RECENTLY SEIZED LAB IN CALI REF ZE-74-0048.
4. WHILE SAIC WAS AT THE SCENE, GENERAL JOSE MATALLANA, DAS CHIEF, ARRIVED. GEN. MATALLANA SHOOK HANDS WITH SAIC AND WAS CONGRATULATED BY THE LATTER ONE FOR THE SEIZURE. PRIOR TO DEPARTURE, GEN MATALLANA REQUESTED BDO ASSISTANCE IN THE FORM OF

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COCAINE CHEMIST EXPERT TO TRAVEL TO BOGOTA ASAP. DEA CHEMIST

TO ASSIST DAS CHEMIST IN IDENTIFICATION OF CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES
FOUND AT LAB SITE. BDO REQUESTS DEA COCAINE CHEMIST EXPERT TO
TRAVEL TO BOGOTA TODAY TO ASSIST IN THIS INV.

5. AMBASSADOR'S COMMENTS: I CONCUR IN BDO REQUEST AND HOPE THAT
DEA CAN SUPPLY CHEMIST SOONEST. I DO WISH TO NOTE HOWEVER THAT
WHILE
GENERAL MATAALLANA'S ATTITUDE IS DESCRIBED AS ENCOURAGING,
OUR MORATORIUM ON OPERATIONS CONTINUES IN EFFECT TO PERMIT
MATAALLANA TO COOL DOWN FURTHER AND TO GIVE US A CHANCE TO ASSESS
GOC'S INTENTIONS REGARDING GUIDELINES FOR DEA OPERATIONS.
VAKY

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Message Attributes

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